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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 4 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/53, paragraphs 1 to 6 of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
>
> "2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective;
>
> "3. Calls upon those nuclear-weapon States that have not done so to respond positively to this proposal and to extend the necessary co-operation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;
>
> "5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;
>
> "6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia."

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution, the Secretary-General submits herewith the reply received thus far. Other replies related to this item will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

[23 May 1991]

1. China has always respected and supported the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones by the countries concerned with the actual conditions of their regions and on the basis of consultations and voluntary agreement, and believes that the nuclear-weapon States should respect these countries' demands and proposals, uphold the status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and assume the corresponding responsibilities. In accordance with this position, China has signed and ratified the relevant protocols of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and has assumed the corresponding responsibilities.

2. China respects and supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South Asia and the Middle East by countries of those regions in the light of the actual regional conditions and through voluntary consultations. China declared from the very first day when it came into possession of nuclear weapons that at no time and under no circumstances would it be the first to use these weapons. China has also undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones. These commitments of China's are applicable to South Asia and the Middle East as well.

3. China believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South Asia and in the region of the Middle East will be facilitated if all the nuclear-weapon States adopt the following measures:

(a) They declare that they will respect the status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and undertake the corresponding obligations;

(b) They undertake neither to be the first to use nuclear weapons nor to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones;

(c) They withdraw their nuclear weapons to their own territories in all cases in which they have deployed these weapons abroad.